

Remarks

Claims 1-21 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1, 3, 8, 13, 16 and 20 being independent. Claims 1-5, 9-11, 14, 15, 18 and 19 have been amended herein.

Response to Election of Species Requirement

Applicant respectfully traverses the election of species requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed June 24, 2005.

A careful review of the specification reveals that the various species are closely related and would not require separate fields of search. Accordingly, neither Applicant nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put to the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the public at large should not be required to obtain and study separate patent documents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicant provisionally elects Species I, represented by Fig. 4. It is respectfully submitted that at least Claims 1-7 read on the elected species.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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